

logged last month were housing, transportation, and food. These are not luxuries, they are essentials, and they take up a much bigger share of families' budgets from the middle class on down.

The Democrats' inflation is functioning like an ultrapunitive tax on American families who can least afford it—exactly the opposite of a “high-class problem.”

It didn't have to be this way. The inflation spike wasn't just predictable; it was, in fact, predicted. This past spring, I warned my Democratic colleagues right here on the floor that their unbelievably expensive and poorly targeted spending bill that masqueraded as COVID relief would turn our strong economic recovery into an inflationary mess. Many of my Republican colleagues said the same thing. But Democrats didn't have to take our word for it; even their own favorite liberal economists, like President Clinton's Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and President Obama's CEA Chairman Jason Furman warned that liberal bill might supercharge inflation.

Now, our Democratic colleagues want to ram through another, even bigger, reckless taxing-and-spending spree that would make inflation even worse. Many of those same liberal economists support this new spending spree because of all the leftwing goodies that are packed into it, but even they largely admit—these who support this new leftwing proposal—even they admit the package would make inflation even worse next year.

Steven Rattner, a senior economic adviser to President Obama, just wrote in the New York Times that “The original sin”—the original sin—“was the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. . . . That has contributed materially to today's inflation levels.” He goes on to say that Democrats' new taxing-and-spending spree “can be deemed ‘paid for’ only if one embraces budget gimmicks, like assuming that some of the most important initiatives will be allowed to expire in just a few years. The result [is] a package that front-loads spending while tax revenues only arrive over [the course] of a decade.” Mr. Rattner cites an outside estimate that “the plan would likely add \$800 billion or more to the deficit over the next five years, exacerbating inflationary pressures.”

Now, the person I just quoted is a former top adviser to President Obama—by definition a liberal Democrat—explaining that the Democrats' new proposal as currently constituted would make inflation worse—worse. He says it is the Democrats' proposal itself that needs to be built back better.

President Biden and his party have already brought needless pain on American families with their reckless spending. Ramming through another multitrillion-dollar, partisan wish list would only compound the damage. The

hard-working men and women of this country cannot afford to be guinea pigs in a socialist experiment where Democrats try to inflate their way out of inflation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 463, Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Charles E. Schumer, Chris Van Hollen, John Hickenlooper, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Duckworth, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher Murphy, Martin Heinrich, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Ron Wyden, Raphael Warnock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 471 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Whereupon, Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Whereupon, Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERPOL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this Saturday, the International Criminal Police Organization, better known as INTERPOL, will begin its annual General Assembly in Istanbul.

INTERPOL is a vital global law enforcement network that helps police from different countries cooperate with each other to control crime. Unfortunately, it has also become a tool in the hands of despots and crooks who seek to punish dissidents and political opponents in an effort to turn other countries' law enforcement against the rule of law.

Rooting out this sort of abuse should be the top priority going into the INTERPOL General Assembly. These abuses make a mockery of INTERPOL and are threatening its continued existence.

INTERPOL's Constitution cites the universal declaration of human rights as the basis for police cooperation. Importantly and significantly, Article 3 of that declaration forbids INTERPOL from engaging in any “activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.”